(b) In order to keep prices of vegetables under check, Delhi Adminstration from time to time have been making efforts to persuade the wholesalers of vegetables and the nominated agencies like NAFED, Super Bazar, Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to keep bulk stock of onions and potatoes so that prices would not escalate due to short supply to these items. Delhi Administration is making vegetables available *to* the consumers in capital through static outlets and mobile vans. Mother Dairy is also selling vegetables at reasonable prices through 166 outlets.

Volcano Eruption in Andamans

@691. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a volcano lying dormat for over 200 years erupted recently in Andamans;

(b) if so, whether any scientific study of the volcano has been made by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A team of scientist from Geological Survey of India (GSI), Department of Ocean Development and local voluntary organisations are studying the volcanic eruption in Barren Island in Andaman Nicobar group of Islands. The studies so far carired out have revealed that red hot .lava with thick smoke, ash and dust is ejecting from a parastic vent located on the north-eastern face of the central volcanic cone on the Barren Island of Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands A large spatter cone has developed at the mouth of the eruption and the lava front *has* already reached the landing site near the north-western corner of the It. land. Lava is cascading into the sea and the sea water there was found profusely boiling. Lava an ashes from the recent eruption have been studied and the erupted rocks have been identified as baseltic andesite.

Mica Production in Bihar

@@692. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production of mica in Khar during toe last thres years;

(b) what was the strength of mica workers in the registered mines during this period; and

(c) what are the reasons for the downward tendency in production of mica and what steps are being taken[contemplated to boost it up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IN. DEPENNENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The production of mica and strength of workers in mica mines during the

@Previously UnStarred Question 122 transferred from 29th August, 1991.

@@ Previously UnStarred Question 301, transferred from 3rd September, 1991.